GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:555
ANSWERED ON:24.11.2006
COAL SHORTAGE FOR POWER PLANTS
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Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of thermal power stations in the country are facing an acute coal shortage;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor; and

(c) the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE)

(a) & (b) : As on 20th November 2006, total coal stock at 74 Thermal Power Stations monitored by Central Electricity Authority was 12.263 Million Tonnes. Out of the monitored thermal power stations, 12 power stations were `Critical` having coal stocks for less than 7 days consumption and out of these 3 power stations were `super critical` with coal stock for less than 4 days consumption. No generation loss due to coal shortage has, however, been reported during the current year. The coal stock at power stations has depleted due to heavy rain affecting coal production in CCL, BCCL and ECL area, constraints in transportation by rail and unloading constraints in some of the power stations resulting in less materialization, i.e 84% and 86% in the months of September and October 2006 respectively.

(c) : Following steps are being taken by the Government to ensure availability of coal to power stations:

1. Monitoring at various level in the Government:

1.1 The coal supply position to thermal power station is rigorously monitored in Central Electricity Authority and Ministry of Power on daily basis.

1.2 A Sub-group of the Infrastructure Constraints Review Committee headed by the Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Coal, consisting of the representatives from the Ministry of Power, Central Electricity Authority, Ministry of Railways and Coal India Ltd., reviews and resolves the problems in coal supply to thermal power stations having coal stock below 7 days requirement on weekly / fortnightly basis.

1.3 The Infrastructure Constraints Review Committee, headed by Secretary (Co- ordination) in the Cabinet Secretariat, reviews the coal production and supply to thermal power stations in the country every month.

2. Long − term Measures:

2.1 New Coal blocks are being allocated by the Ministry of Coal to power producers/utilities for captive mining to meet requirement of their power plants.

2.2 Streamlining of procedure for environmental / forest clearance has been done by Ministry of Environment & Forests.